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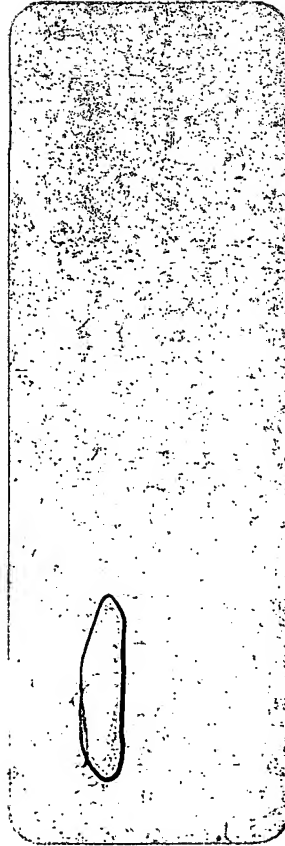
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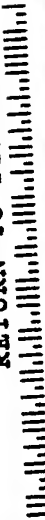
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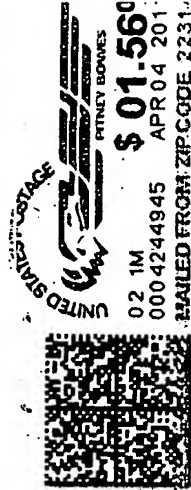
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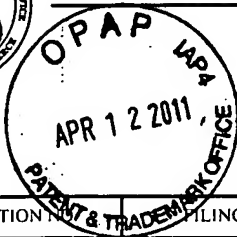
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,744	01/18/2002	John W. Rapp	1934-1-5	3267

7590 04/04/2011
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EXAMINER

TANG, KAREN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2447

MAIL DATE DELIVERY MODE

04/04/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/052,744

Applicant(s)

RAPP ET AL.

Examiner

KAREN C. TANG

Art Unit

2447

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-22 and 29-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-22, 29-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

- This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks file on 01/13/2010.
- Claims 2-22, 29-37 are presented for further examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/25/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Mathur fails to disclose the device that facilitate the communications by the device through a selected one of the plurality of communication protocols

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show "the device that facilitate the communications by the device through a selected one of the plurality of communication protocols", Mathur discloses the alleged missing limitation.

Mathur, in analogous art, demonstrates the system would search the appropriate drivers (communication information as there are plurality of drivers available in the system, see par 0072) in order to facilitate the communications via a different protocols (different drivers, par 0082) by utilizing the interface configuration information (detection routine, refer to par 0092).

In order to search for the appropriate drive to facilitate the communication, the system includes interrupt service routines handlers (i.e., interface configuration information, par 0088) or invoke a detection routine to perform functions calls to select the appropriate (refer to par 0091-0094)

Therefore, Mathur teaches the alleged missing limitation.

Applicant further argues that Mathur fails to disclose device communicating through different communication protocols are not added to and simultaneously utilized in the system with the approach of Mathur.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., communicating through different communication protocols are not added to and simultaneously utilized in the system) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-22, 29-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moyne (US 5,469,361) in view of Mathur et al hereinafter Mathur (US 2005/0097577).

1. Referring to Claim 5, Moyne discloses a system (refer to Title) comprising:
a hardware subsystem (manufacturing equipment, refer to Col 4, Lines 27-67) that includes at least one component (equipment controllers 13a-13s) adapted to carry an electrical

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signal (commands, refer to Col 4, Lines 50-67) associated with one of a sensing operation and a control operation (refer to Col 5, Lines 25-55);

an application database (database 27, Col 20, Lines 60-65) storing application service configuration information (refer to Col 21, Lines 1-8) that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with the electrical signal (message, refer to Col 6, lines 1-5); and

a self configuring application services system (cell controller, refer to Col 5, Lines 15-25) comprising an application system configuration module (routines modules) coupled to the hardware subsystem (manufacturing equipment, refer to Col 4, Lines 27-67) and coupled to retrieve application service configuration information from the application database (retrieves data to be sent, refer to Col 19, Lines 14-19), the self-configuring application service system operable itself for communication with the hardware subsystem using the application service configuration information, this configuration including associating an event code with the electrical signal (Refer to Col 19, Lines 10-20).

a signal database (database 22, refer to Col 8, Lines 15-40) storing interface communications configuration information (refer to Col 8, Lines 54-67) corresponding to a manner of managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuration application system (refer to Col 7, Lines 5-20);

a self-configuring interface system (Message Parser 24, refer to Col 12, Lines 20-25) coupled to the hardware subsystem and the application services system and comprising an interface system configuration module coupled to retrieve interface configuration information from the signal database and utilizes this configuration information to facilitate communication

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between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system (refer to Col 7, Lines 30-40 and Col 12, Lines 10-35).

Although Moyne disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Moyne did not explicitly disclosing regarding the self-configuration interface system utilizes the information retrieves from signal database to facilitate communication between hardware subsystem and self-configuring application services system via plurality of protocols.

Mathur, in an analogous art disclosed the self-configuration interface system utilizes the information retrieves from signal database to facilitate communication between hardware subsystem and self-configuring application services system via plurality of protocols (refer to par 0088, and par 0091- 0098).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Moyne with Mathur because Mathur's teaching would improve Moyne's system by it provides the ability to support automatic sensing of devices to the users in the system.

2. Referring to Claim 2, Moyne discloses the application service configuration information references a software object for processing information associated with the electrical signal, and the self-configuring application service system further comprises the software object (cell controller, refer to Col 5, Lines 15-25)

3. Referring to Claim 3, Moyne discloses the object database storing a version of the software object (database stores the newest updated parameters/object, refer to Col 14, Lines 8-50).

4. Referring to Claim 4, Moyne discloses wherein the object database forms a portion of an Object Database Management System (refer to Col 13, Lines 45-55)
5. Referring to Claim 6, Moyne discloses wherein said interface configuration information further references a software object that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with the electrical signal (refer to Col 8, Lines 54-67).
6. Referring to Claim 7, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises the software object (refer to Col 3, Lines 1-15).
7. Referring to Claim 8, Moyne discloses wherein an object database storing a version of the software object (database stores the newest updated parameters/object, refer to Col 14, Lines 8-50).
8. Referring to Claim 9, Moyne discloses wherein the object database forms a portion of an Object Database Management System (refer to Col 13, Lines 45-55).
9. Referring to Claim 10, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system communications with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and communications with the appliance services system in accordance with an event code that

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corresponds to the electrical signal (refer Col 5, Lines 64-Col 6, Lines 15, and Col 6, Lines 55-61 and Col 7, Lines 65 and Col 8, Lines 8).

10. Referring to Claim 11, Moyne discloses wherein the interface system communicates with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and communicates with the software object and the application service system in accordance with the event code that corresponds to the electrical signal (refer to Col 5, Lines 64- Col 6, Lines 55-61, Col 7, Lines 65 to Col 8, Lines 8, and Col 5, Lines 25-55).

11. Referring to Claim 12, Moyne discloses

a hardware subsystem (manufacturing equipment, refer to Col 4, Lines 27-67) that includes a set of components adapted to carry electrical signal (commands, refer to Col 4, Lines 50-67), each electrical signal associated with one from the group of a sensing operation and a control operation (refer to Col 5, Lines 25-55);

an application database (database 27, Col 20, Lines 60-65) referencing a first software object (refer to Col 21, Lines 1-8) that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with an electrical signal (message, refer to Col 6, lines 1-5, and Col 14, Lines 50-67 and Col 15);

a self-configuring application services system (refer to Col 5, Lines 15-25) comprising: application service system configuration module (Main program module 21, refer to Col 7, Lines 60-67) coupled to the hardware subsystem (manufacturing equipment, refer to Col 4, Lines 27-

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67) and coupled to retrieve application service configuration information from the application database (refer to Col 8, Lines 1-15); and

the first software object (routine to be called, refer to Col 8, Lines 40-65);

a signal database storing interface communication configuration information (22, refer to Col 6, Lines 1-10) corresponding to a manner of managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system (refer to Col 8, Lines 54-57 and Col 7, Lines 5-20) referencing a second software object (routine to be called, refer to Col 8, Lines 40-65) that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with an electrical signal and associates an event code with the electrical signal

a self-configuring interface system (Message Parser 24, refer to Col 12, Lines 20-25) coupled to the hardware subsystem and the application services system and comprising an interface system configuration module coupled to retrieve interface configuration information from the signal database and facilitate communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system and the second software object (refer to Col 12, Lines 20-35).

Although Moyne disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Moyne did not explicitly disclosing regarding the self-configuration interface system utilizes the information retrieves from signal database to facilitate communication between hardware subsystem and self-configuring application services system via plurality of protocols.

Mathur, in an analogous art disclosed the self-configuration interface system utilizes the information retrieves from signal database to facilitate communication between hardware

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subsystem and self-configuring application services system via plurality of protocols (refer to par 0093).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Moyne with Mathur because Mathur's teaching would improve Moyne's system by it provides the ability to support automatic sensing of devices to the users in the system.

12. Referring to Claim 13, Moyne discloses comprising an object database storing one from the group of the first software object (refer to Col 8, Lines 40-60).

13. Referring to Claim 14, Moyne discloses wherein the object database forms a portion of an Object Database Management System (refer to Col 13, Lines 45-55)

14. Referring to Claim 15, Moyne discloses the network coupled to the self-configuring application service system and the self-configuring interface system (refer to Col 4, Lines 25-55 and Col 3, Lines 1-15, and Col 5, Lines 35-55).

15. Referring to Claim 16, Moyne discloses wherein the network comprises one from the group of a Local Area Network, a Wide Area network, and the Internet (Local area network, refer to Col 4, Lines 65-67)

16. Referring to Claim 17, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system communications with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and

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communications with the self-configuring appliance services system in accordance with an event code that corresponds to the electrical signal (refer Fig 2, Col 5, Lines 64-Col 6, Lines 15, and Col 6, Lines 55-61 and Col 7, Lines 65 and Col 8, Lines 8).

17. Referring to Claim 18, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system communicates with the hardware subsystem in accordance with the electrical signal, and communicates with the software object and the self-configuring application service system in accordance with an event code that corresponds to the electrical signal (refer to Col 5, Lines 64-Col 6, Lines 55-61, Col 7, Lines 65 to Col 8, Lines 8, and Col 5, Lines 25-55).

18. Referring to Claim 19, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises:
a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal (refer to Col 5, Lines 54-Col 6, Lines 15, Col 6, Lines 55-61, and Col 7, Lines 65 - Col 8, Lines 8);

19. Referring to Claim 20, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises:
a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal;

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an event coding-decoding module coupled to map between an electrical signal and an event code (refer to Col 5, Lines 54-Col 6, Lines 15, Col 6, Lines 55-61, and Col 7, Lines 65 - Col 8, Lines 8).

20. Referring to Claim 21, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises:

a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal; an event coding-decoding module coupled to map between an electrical signal and an event code (refer to Col 5, Lines 54-Col 6, Lines 15, Col 6, Lines 55-61, and Col 7, Lines 65 - Col 8, Lines 8);

an inter-process communication module coupled to manage event-based communication with the self-configuring application services system (refer to Col 5, Lines 54-Col 6, Lines 15, Col 6, Lines 55-61, and Col 7, Lines 65 - Col 8, Lines 8).

19. Referring to Claim 22, Moyne discloses wherein the self-configuring interface system further comprises:

a signal exchange module coupled to the hardware subsystem, the signal exchange module comprising a storage element for storing a hardware signal corresponding to an electrical signal; an event coding-decoding module coupled to map between an electrical signal and an event code; and

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an interprocess communication module coupled to manage event-based communication with the self-configuring application services system and the second software object (refer to Col 5, Lines 54-Col 6, Lines 15, Col 6, Lines 55-61, and Col 7, Lines 65 - Col 8).

21. Referring to Claim 29, Moyne discloses in a system (refer to Title) comprising a hardware subsystem (manufacturing equipment, refer to Col 4, Lines 27-67) that includes a set of components adapted to carry electrical signals (commands, refer to Col 4, Lines 50-67), each electrical signal associated with one from the group of a sensing operation and a control operation (refer to Col 5, Lines 25-55), a method for processing an electrical signal comprising the step of:

an application database (database 27, Col 20, Lines 60-65) referencing a first software object (refer to Col 21, Lines 1-8) that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with an electrical signal (message, refer to Col 6, lines 1-5, and Col 14, Lines 50-67 and Col 15);

a self-configuring application services system (refer to Col 5, Lines 15-25) comprising: application service system configuration module (Main program module 21, refer to Col 7, Lines 60-67) coupled to the hardware subsystem (manufacturing equipment, refer to Col 4, Lines 27-67) and coupled to retrieve application service configuration information from the application database (refer to Col 8, Lines 1-15); and

the first software object (routine to be called, refer to Col 8, Lines 40-65);

a signal database storing interface communication configuration information (22, refer to Col 6, Lines 1-10) corresponding to a manner of managing communication between the

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hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system (refer to Col 8, Lines 54-57 and Col 7, Lines 5-20) referencing a second software object (routine to be called, refer to Col 8, Lines 40-65) that corresponds to a manner of processing information associated with an electrical signal and associates an event code with the electrical signal

a self-configuring interface system (Message Parser 24, refer to Col 12, Lines 20-25) coupled to the hardware subsystem and the application services system and comprising an interface system configuration module coupled to retrieve interface configuration information from the signal database and facilitate communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring application services system and the second software object (refer to Col 12, Lines 20-35).

Although Moyne disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Moyne did not explicitly disclosing regarding the self-configuration interface system utilizes the information retrieves from signal database to facilitate communication between hardware subsystem and self-configuring application services system via plurality of protocols.

Mathur, in an analogous art disclosed the self-configuration interface system utilizes the information retrieves from signal database to facilitate communication between hardware subsystem and self-configuring application services system via plurality of protocols (refer to par 0093).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Moyne with Mathur because Mathur's teaching would improve Moyne's system by it provides the ability to support automatic sensing of devices to the users in the system.

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22. Referring to Claim 30, Moyne discloses comprising an object database (database 22, refer to Col 13, Lines 40-50, Col 8, Lines 15-67, and Col 16, Lines 1-15) storing one from the group of the first software object (refer to Col 8, Lines 40-67).

23. Referring to Claim 31, Moyne discloses wherein the object database forms a portion of an Object Database Management System (refer to Col 13, Lines 45-55)

24. Referring to Claim 32, Moyne discloses wherein a mapping between a set of electrical signals and a set of event codes for those electrical signals associated with software objects within the first set of software object (refer to Col 8)

25. Referring to Claim 33, Moyne discloses: the system managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the self-configuring interface system in accordance with the electrical signals (refer to Col 4, Lines 20-67, Col 5, Lines 1-15, Lines 55-67, and Col 6); and the system managing communication between the interface system and the first set of software objects in accordance with the set of event codes (refer to Col 8, Lines 40-67).

26. Referring to Claim 34, Moyne discloses wherein a mapping between a set of electrical signals and a set of event codes for those electrical signals associated with software objects within the second set of software object (refer to Col 8, Lines 40-67).

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27. Referring to Claim 35, Moyne discloses: the system managing communication between the hardware subsystem and the interface system in accordance with the set of electrical signal (refer to Col 4, Lines 20-67, Col 5, Lines 1-15, Lines 55-67, and Col 6); and

The system managing communication between the self-configuring interface system and the first set of software objects and the second set of software objects in accordance with the set of event codes (refer to Col 15, Col 16, Col 17, and Col 18, and Col 8, Lines 40-67).

28. Referring to Claim 36, Moyne discloses the system executing program instruction associated with the first set of software objects within a first computer system (refer to Col 5, Lines 1-15, and Col 3, Lines 1-15, Col 5); and the system executing program instructions associated with the second set of software objects within a second computer system (refer to Col 5 and Col 6 and Col 8).

29. Referring to Claim 37. Moyne discloses the second computer system (refer to Col 4, Lines 50-67, and Col 5, Lines 1-15) includes the hardware interface module.

Conclusion

Examiner's Notes: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is

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respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner. In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen C. Tang whose telephone number is (571)272-3116. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thr 8 - 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Karen C Tang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2451

PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM: "TRACK ONE" ACCELERATED PATENT EXAMINATION:

On February 4, 2011, the USPTO published in the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking, titled "Changes to Implement the Prioritized Examination Track (Track I) of the Enhanced Examination Timing Control Procedures." The "Three-Track" program is designed to enable applicants to choose the speed with which their patent application is processed. Track I will give applicants the opportunity for prioritized examination of a patent application within 12 months of its filing date for a fee. The Federal Register notice requests comments from the public on a number of different proposed requirements for participation in Track I, including (a) a prioritized examination fee, which is in addition to the current filing fees, the publication fee, and a processing fee; (b) limits on the number of claims to four independent claims and 30 total claims; (c) application filing through the USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS-Web); and other such requirements. The comment period closed 30 days after February 4, 2011. For complete information see the notice at 76 Fed. Reg. 6371.

In preparation for this initiative, look for further announcements including a final notice.

Other available programs which allow prioritized examination include:

PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY PILOT PROGRAM: An applicant receiving a ruling from the Office of First Filing (OFF) that at least one claim in an application filed in the OFF is patentable may request that the Office of Second Filing (OSF) fast track the examination of corresponding claims in a corresponding application in the OSF. For further information, see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp and the Federal Register notice of May 25, 2010, (75 Fed. Reg. 29312).

GREEN TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM: An application pertaining to green technologies including greenhouse gas reduction (applications pertaining to environmental quality, energy conservation, development of renewable energy resources or greenhouse gas emission reduction) may be advanced out of turn for examination. The USPTO has expanded the eligibility for the pilot program to include applications irrespective of filing date and classification, and extended the program until December 31, 2011. For complete information see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/green_tech.jsp

PROJECT EXCHANGE: An application will be advanced out of turn for examination if the applicant files a petition to make special with the appropriate showing. Special status for examination is accorded if the applicant is able to satisfy (i) the requirements set forth in the June 24, 2010 Federal Register notice titled "Expansion and Extension of the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan" and (ii) the conditions sets forth in the November 27, 2009 Federal Register notice titled "Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan," other than the small entity requirement, which was eliminated. This procedure allows applicants having multiple applications currently pending before the USPTO to have greater control over the priority with which their applications are examined. The program has been extended to December 31, 2011. For full details visit http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/PatentStimulusPlan.jsp#heading-1

ACCELERATED EXAMINATION: The USPTO will prioritize an application for examination if the applicant files a grantable petition to make special under the accelerated examination program. Under this program applicant can expect examination before the examiner to be disposed of within 12 months of filing of the application. Requirements include a complete application upon filing and a petition filed on the same day. The petition must include, *inter alia*, documentation of a prior art search and a discussion of the most relevant references and the patentability of the claims over those references. For complete details see MPEP § 708.02(a) and <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/accelerated/index.jsp>

PEER REVIEW PILOT PROGRAM FY 2011: A notice titled "A New Pilot Program Concerning Public Submission of Peer Reviewed Prior Art" published in the *Official Gazette* on December 28, 2010. The notice provides details about the viability of using Internet technologies and the power of crowdsourcing to uncover potentially useful prior art for consideration by patent examiners during the examination process. For more information on the pilot and how to participate, visit http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/peerpriorartpilotindex.jsp